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SEMI-POPULAR MOTION-PICTURE RECORD OF THE TRINITY EXPLOSION

2 m 13 IA MS - 373

Jo Eo Hack

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N. E. Bradbury 208 ----Froms Subjects

J. E. Meck

Proposed semi-popular motion-picture record of the Trinity explosion.

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I am enclosing prints of the titles we discussed today.

(1) to submit the titles to a nationally circulated magagine for publication. I propose:

(2) to let a complete motion picture be made according to the scenario listed below, preferably for general commercial circulation as a "short", or if that is impossible, to be treated as an educational movie .

Item No.	Film Code	Time:	100 m soale (on)	Initial words
1	(tower)	pre	nong	The first atomic bomb (use first alone, then with overlay for item 2)
8	(tower)	pre	none	(overlay, use with item 1) The bomb was exploded
马中方	50	8.9		(Probably a formal title: authority, acknowledgements, etc.)
44				(3 inch movie, wikhout further introduction, and without overlay)
5	-			We have just seen
6.	00	x +		The pictures themselves
7	205	0° 10=0° 52ms	8	The ball has not
8	205	0.52-0.94ms	8	The limitation
9	203	3.53-6.23ms	1	Scon after the groundstrike
10	C 22			The belt near
12	00			But a shock wave
王宫办准	60	· · ·		(Animation: ordinary wave and shock wave)
15	203	6.8-9.2ms	1	The spikes have
14	164	15ne	4.7	The belt, still hot
15	208 -	17.8-21.1ms	1	The Mach front, originally brighter
16	18 ⁿ 0	25ms	5	The cantral ball
17	18"	2 5 215	5	Washington monument
1.8	18" 🗩	54ns	6	The Mach front belt
19 *	18"	44	5	The shock front and
20	18"	53	5	The shock wave is followed

	TH 1	* * 1	100	
lten	F1 lm		100 m	A STATE OF
Noo	Code	Timos	SCALO	
			(cm)	Initial words
21	1.8"	62 10 9	5	(no mords)
22	18"	62 m2	5	This nicture is the same
23	1.8"	72 m	5	The dense shall
24	ev	1 660 112/2*		Geometric projection (cable refraction
25**	****			(Animation: cable refraction)
26	18"	8lmg	- 5	(no words)
27	18"	COna	5	(no words)
28	18"	1 OGn a	5	The helt is
29	18"	109na	5	(no sords)
30	18 ⁿ	118mg	5	(no words)
51	184] 27 mg	5	We shall revert
32	241	250 mg	10	The camera was almedo
33	24"	0.01.0.50.800	10	Nno words)
34	Aero	· 8.1 890	0.2	The next four
35	Aero	11.5 500	8.2	(RO EDPÅB)
36	Aero	14.8 500	0.2	(no words)
37	Aero	18,4 800	0.2	(no words)
38	18"	2,000 860	5	Returning
39	3"	2 800	2	This nicture covers
40	3B	4 800	e .	A great general
41	-		. 1	The convective rise
42**	20			(Apimation: convection)
43	3"	10 sec	1	The smoke from the vortex
44	34	10 sec	1	Washington Monument, Empire State
45	3.0	20 586	1	The snoke cloud
46	3"	30 seo	1	In the dark
47	30	60 sec	1	As it passes
48	Shue 1		none	The stem remains
49	00			Now let us (use first alone, then with overlave 49A to 49K)
1	00	~		(dial at 0/10)
8		~		(dial at i/10)
С		2		(dial at 2/10)
D	80	5		(dial at 3/10)
- 12		5		(dial at 4/10)
		2		
		~		
		0		

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Itom	Film		100 m
No.	Cada	Times	soale Initial words
			(om)
14.4			
49F			(dial at 5/10)
G	**		(dial at 6/10)
H	00		(dial at 7/10)
I	90		(dial at 8/10)
J	50		(dial at 9/10)
X	99		= 49A
50 X X	60		Camera position 5.824
5 1 **			(disc for predicting explosion location exact location be determined)
52 X	00	4	(3" movie, use with overlays 42A to 49J oyolicly, averaging 2.4 frames per overlay)
53 **	00		Camera position 5,8,,,107,1
54 **	00		= 51
55 X	90		(18" movie, use with 49A to 49J cyclicly, a veraging 10.7 frames per overlay)
56 **	60		Camera position 5.8.00119
57 **	00		≈ 51
58 ×	00		(25"-movie use with 49A to 49J cyclicly, averaging 11.9 frames per overlay)
59 x4x	00		Camora position 5.8.000 660
60××	04		= 61
61 X	00		(movie 211, use with 49A to 49J cyclicly, 66 frames per overlay)
62 **	00		Camera position 5,8,,,651
63 **	G-0		= 51
64 X	66		(movie 209 use with 49A to 49J cyclicly 65.1 frames per overlay)
65 * *	00		Camera position 5.8
66 * *	00		= 5]
67 8	00		(movie 210, use with 49A to 49J cyclicly, 356 frames per overlay)
68 **	00		Camera position 5.83760
69 **	00		= 51
707	00		(movie 208, use with 49A to 49J cyclicly 376 frames per overlay)
7123	00		Camera position 0.453700
72X A	60		= 51
73 X *	90		(movie 203 use with 49A to 49J cyclicly, 370 frames per overlay)
74 **			Camera position 0.457110

-4-

(argenerate)	÷				
Item	Film		100 m		
Noo	Code	Times	scale (cm) Initial words		1.1.1.1.
75**			=51	,	
76X	e e		(movie 205, use with 49	A to 49J cyclicly, 711 frame	s per overlay)
77	Shee 2		The end		

Each listed "movie" is, of course, omitted here. It would be run just as it was taken, except that the relatively uninteresting later part might be deleted, and each frame would be overlaid with a time dial except in the case of item 4.

This item cannot be completed until the technical details of the motion picture are determined. Items 3, 12, 25, and 42 are cmitted here. The rest are shown, incomplete.

THE FIRST ATOMIC BOMB

AN ANALYSIS OF LOS ALAMOS PROJECT'S "TRINITY" TEST EXPLOSION

JORNADA DEL MUERTE, ALAMOGORDO AIR BASE, NEW MEXICO 5:30 A.M. JULY 16, 1945.

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> THE BOMB WAS EX-PLODED AT THE TOP OF THIS 100-FOOT TOWER, WHICH IT COMPLETELY VAPORIZED.

WE HAVE JUST SEEN THE EXPLOSION AT ITS NATURAL SPEED, AS IT APPEARED FROM A DISTANCE OF 5.8 MILES.

IN ORDER TO APPRECIATE SOME OF THE DETAILS, WE SHALL NOW STUDY CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL FRAMES FROM SEVERAL MOTION PICTURES OF THE EXPLOSION.

ALTHOUGH THE SEQUENCE OF STUDIES IS ROUGHLY CHRONOLOGICAL, FOR THE SAKE OF CONTINUITY OF STUDY THERE IS SOME DEPARTURE FROM CHRONOLO-GICAL ORDER. FOR INSTANCE, THE SHOCK WAVE IS FOLLOWED FROM O TO I8 SECONDS BEFORE THE START OF THE STUDY OF THE RISE OF THE SMOKE CLOUD, AT 2 SECONDS. THE PICTURES THEMSELVES GIVE NO IDEA OF THE BRIGHT-NESS, OR OF TIME AND SPACE SCALES.

THE OBJECT YOU SEE IS, FOR THE FIRST FEW FRAMES, MANY TIMES BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN, AND, FOR A CONSI-DERABLE FRACTION OF A SECOND AFTER THAT, BRIGHTER THAN ANY LIGHT EVER PRODUCED BEFORE ON EARTH. SINCE THE EXPLOSION OCCURRED JUST BEFORE DAWN, THE LAST VIEW OF THE ASCENDING CLOUD IS VERY DIM.

THE TIME IS GIVEN FOR EACH FRAME OF THE STUDY SE-QUENCE IN THOUSANDTHS OF A SECOND (MILLISECONDS, "MS") OR IN SECONDS, "SEC". THE DIRECTION OF THE CAMERA STA-TION IS GIVEN AS "N," "NW", OR "W".

THE LINEAR SCALE IS GIVEN BY A BAR - REPRE-SENTING IOO METERS, OR ABOUT 328 FEET. TO HELP YOU APPRECIATE THIS SCALE, SILHOUETTES OF FAMILIAR BUILDINGS ARE INSERTED IN SEVERAL OF THE FRAMES.



NOT YET TOUCHED

0.52 MS. W THE LIMITATION AT TOP & BOTTOM IS DUE TO THE FRAME LINE.

0.66 MS. REACHED GROUND AT ABOUT 0.65 MS.

0.80 MS. OF THE SPIKES.

0.94 MS. DISAPPEARED, LEAVING A SMOOTH EDGE.





SOON AFTER THE GROUNDSTRIKE A A DUST SKIRT AP-PEARS. ABOVE THE SKIRT AT 3.6 MS APPEARS A BRIGHT BELT THAT WILL BE NOTICEABLE WITH VARYING CONTRAST FOR ABOUT 100 MS. THIS IS THE "MACH FRONT," CAUSED BY THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE VELOCITY NEAR THE GROUND. WHERE THE REFLECT-ED WAVE REINFORCES THE DIRECT ONE.

THE BELT NEAR THE GROUND (PARTLY HIDDEN BY THE DUST SKIRT) IS THE MACH WAVE, A PHENOMENON PREVIOUSLY KNOWN IN SHOCK WAVE REFLECTION, BUT NEVER BEFORE OBSERVED SO STRIKINGLY.

WHEN AN ORDINARY WAVE, SUCH AS LIGHT, OR SOUND, OR A WATER RIPPLE, STRIKES AN OBSTACLE, THE REFLECTED WAVE FRONT REMAINS JOINED TO THE ORIGINAL FRONT AT THE BOUNDARY OF THE OBSTACLE.



BUT A SHOCK WAVE FRONT TRAVELS FASTER THE STRONGER IT IS, AND FASTER IN HOT AIR THAN IN COLD. MOREOVER, IT HEATS THE AIR. THE REFLECTED FRONT THUS TRAVELS FASTER THAN THE ORIGINAL SHOCK FRONT, CATCHES UP WITH IT, AND RIDES UP ON IT IN A COMMON, REINFORCED FRONT WHICH TRAVELS FASTER THAN THE ORIGINAL BECAUSE IT IS STRONGER. THIS IS CALLED THE MACH FRONT.





THE SPIKES HAVE STRUCK THE GROUND BETWEEN 2.0 AND 2.4 MS. IN THE REGION WHERE EACH SPIKE STRUCK, THERE APPEARS, BETWEEN 5 AND 8 MS. A BRIGHT V-SHAPED PART IN THE SKIRT, BY 12 MS IT IS VERY BRIGHT. IT LASTS UNTIL ABOUT 40 MS.







THE MACH FRONT. ORIG-INALLY BRIGHTER THAN THE BALL, BEGINS TO APPEAR DARKER THAN THE BALL AT ITS UP-PER EDGE, AT 15 MS. THIS REVERSAL OF CONTRAST HAS REACH-ED THE EDGE OF THE BALL BY 20 MS, AND THE BOTTOM OF THE VISIBLE PART OF THE MACH FRONT BY 25 MS.

25 MS. N BALL OF FIRE SHOCK FRONT THE CENTRAL BALL OF FIRE, WHICH HAS NO SHARP BOUND-ARY, HENCEFORTH INCREASES IN SIZE ONLY VERY SLOWLY. THE SHARPLY DEFINED SHOCK FRONT HAS BEGUN TO LEAVE IT BEHIND; THE REGION NEAR THE EDGE, WHOSE BRIGHTNESS IS DUE SOLELY TO THE SELF-LUMINOUS SHOCK FRONT, IS LESS BRIGHT THAN THE CENTER.









THE SHOCK WAVE IS FOLLOWED AT AN INCREASING DISTANCE BY A DARK WAVE CAUSED BY THE FORMA-TION OF CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS OF THE ELEMENTS IN THE ATMOSPHERE FROM THE GREAT PRESSURE AND HEAT OF THE SHOCK.





















THE CAMERA WAS AIMED ABOVE AND TO THE RIGHT OF THE EXPLOSION FOR THE NEXT (COMPOSITE) PICTURE. EARLIER FRAMES SHOW THE VAPORIZATION OF THE INITIALLY INVISIBLE BALLOON CA-BLE. THE SHOCK WAVE, AS IT REACHES THE CABLE, BLOWS IT ASIDE AT HIGH SPEED.

30

250 MS.

OR 0.25 SEC. W

SHOCK FRONT INTERSECTION WITH THE PLANE



8.1 SEC. NW THE NEXT FOUR PICTURES WERE TAKEN FROM A HILL-TOP 20 MILES AWAY. THE SCALE IS ONLY ONE-FIFTIETH THAT OF THE PICTURES YOU HAVE JUST SEEN. NOTICE THE CLEAR SKY IN THIS PICTURE AND THE SUCCES-SIVE CLOUD RINGS PRODUCED BEHIND THE SHOCK FRONT AS THE RAREFACTION CAUSES SUPERSATURATION IN MOIST LAYERS BETWEEN TWO AND FOUR MILES ABOVE THE GROUND. THESE CLOUD RINGS ARE NOT SHOWN IN THE MOTION PICTURES.

EMPIRE STATE BLDG.









2.000 SE N



THIS PICTURE COVERS A MUCH LARGER AREA, ON A SMALLER SCALE THAN THE PREVIOUS ONE. MOST OF THE BALL OF FIRE IS HIDDEN BY THE DUST SKIRT. TWO PAIRS OF VAPORIZED BALLOONS MAY BE SEEN. (THE BLACK SPOT IS SOLARIZED. THE AREA IS REALLY MUCH BRIGHTER THAN THE REST OF THE FIELD.)



CROSS SECTIONS (SCHEMATIC):



THE CONVECTIVE RISE STARTS AS FOLLOWS:

THE SHOCK FRONT AND CONSEQUENT RARE-FACTION PHASE PASS AWAY IN ABOUT 1/4 SECOND, LEAVING STILL, RAREFIED AIR.

THE LIGHT, HOT AIR BEGINS TO RISE, AND COOL AIR FROM THE OUTSIDE COMES IN.

THE INWARD AND UPWARD SWEEP OF AIR PRODUCES A NECK IN THE SKIRT MATERIAL. TURBULENT MIXING MAKES THE BOUNDA-RIES RATHER INDEFINITE.

THE UPRUSH OF AIR MAKES THE SKIRT MATERIAL ABOVE THE NECK INTO A VOR-TEX RING.

THE MATERIAL CARRIED THROUGH THE RING PILES UP OVER IT, ENLARGING THE CLOUD.

THE CLOUD, MADE OF THE RING AND SUPER-POSED MATTER, GRADUALLY CHANGES SHAPE INTO A BALL AS IT RISES.



THE SMOKE FROM THE VORTEX, SPILLING OVER THE TORUS, IS CHANGING THE SHAPE OF THE CLOUD.



1.12







THE STEM REMAINS POISED UNTIL IT IS PULLED APART BY THE WINDS, MANY MINUTES AFTER THE SMOKE CLOUD HAS REACHED THE STRATOSPHERE.

A SMOKE PALL REMAINS ON THE GROUND FOR HOURS.

NOW LET US LOOK AT THE MOTION PICTURES. THE HAND ON THE DIAL ROTATES ONCE PER SECOND, IN STEPS OF ONE-TENTH SECOND.

WHEN A WHITE DISC APPEARS, CONCENTRATE ON THE SPOT SO AS NOT TO MISS THE INITIAL STAGES OF THE EXPLOSION.





















CAMERA POSITION 5.8 MILES N FRAME FREQUENCY, 24 PER SECOND 35 MM FILM. 75 MM FOCAL LENGTH 100 METERS

THE BLACK SPECKS IN THE FIRST FEW FRAMES ARISE FROM THE BURNING OF THE ORIGINAL FILM BY THE HEAT FROM THE BOMB. THE PATTERN DOES NOT REPRESENT ANYTHING IN THE ACTUAL SCENE.



CAMERA POSITION 5.8 MILES N FRAME FREQUENCY, 107.1 PER SECOND 35 MM FILM. 450 MM FOCAL LENGTH 100 METERS

THE WHITE AREA AT THE LOWER RIGHT HAS NO MEANING FOR THE SCENE. IT IS CAUSED BY EXTRANEOUS LIGHT IN THE CAMERA.

CAMERA POSITION 5.8 MILES W FRAME FREQUENCY, II9 PER SECOND 35 MM FILM. 610 MM FOCAL LENGTH 100 METERS AIM, APPROXIMATELY 30° TO THE RIGHT OF VERTICAL 400 METERS FROM THE EXPLOSION CENTER

CAMERA POSITION 5.8 MILES W FRAME FREQUENCY, 660 PER SECOND 16 MM FILM. 152 MM FOCAL LENGTH 100 METERS AFTER ABOUT THREE SECONDS OF SHOWING, WATCH THE SHOCK FRONT STRIKE THE CABLE

(EXTREME RIGHT)

CAMERA POSITION 5.8 MILES N FRAME FREQUENCY, 651 PER SECOND 16 MM FILM. 152 MM FOCAL LENGTH 100 METERS

CAMERA POSITION 5.8 MILES W FRAME FREQUENCY, 3560 PER SECOND 16 MM FILM. 152 MM FOCAL LENGTH

100 METERS

AFTER ABOUT ONE SECOND OF SHOWING, WATCH THE BRIGHT CURTAIN RISE ACROSS THE FACE OF THE BALL.

CAMERA POSITION 5.8 MILES N FRAME FREQUENCY,3760 PER SECOND 16 MM FILM. 254 MM FOCAL LENGTH 100 METERS

CAMERA POSITION 0.45 MILES N FRAME FREQUENCY, 3700 PER SECOND 16 MM FILM. 50 MM FOCAL LENGTH 100 METERS CAMERA POSITION 0.45 MILES W FRAME FREQUENCY, 7110 PER SECOND 8 MM FILM. 50 MM FOCAL LENGTH 100 METERS

THE END

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DOCUMENT ROOM

REC. FROM Ge DATE SIJILS REC. NO. REC.

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